

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

SS-15 HEW-02 AID-05 L-02 AGR-05 /081 W

----- 014232

R 141627Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0056

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

DEA WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

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PARIS FOR DEA. MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, GW

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL ... MANDRAX ABUSE

1. SUMMARY: MEMBERS OF THE US ARMED FORCES STATIONED IN THE FRG CONTINUE TO ABUSE MANDRAX, A METHAQUALONE-BASED DRUG. USAREUR AND EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE REQUESTED AND RECEIVED THE HELP OF FRG OFFICIALS IN DEVELOPING TIGHTER CONTROLS OVER THIS PRESCRIPTION ITEM. WE HAVE RECENTLY SUPPORTED AN FRG INITIATIVE TO TREAT MANDRAX

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AS A PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES CONVENTION SCHEDULE II

ITEM (AS IS THE CASE IN THE US), INSTEAD OF A SCHEDULE
IV ITEM AS IS PRESENTLY BEING DONE IN THE FRG. FRG
MINISTRY OF YOUTH, FAMILY AND HEALTH (FMOYFH) OFFICIALS
FEEL THAT SUCH A MOVE COULD BE FACILITATED WERE METHA-
QUALONE-BASED DRUGS PLACED ON THE PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES
CONVENTION SCHEDULE II BY THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON NARCOTIC DRUGS. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE
DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USG ADVOCAT-
ING SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION BY THE UNCND. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGINNING IN 1973 USAREUR NOTED A RISE IN THE RATE OF
MANDRAX ABUSE BY MEMBERS OF THE US ARMED FORCES STA-
TIONED IN THE FRG. (MANDRAX IS A METHAQUALONE-BASED
DRUG SIMILAR IN ITS EFFECTS TO A BARBITUATE. FOR DE-
TAILED INFORMATION ON THE MANDRAX PROBLEM AMONG US ARMED
FORCES MEMBERS IN THE FRG CONTACT DR. COLLINS, DOD.)
IN MAY, 1974, CAPPING A SERIES OF APPROACHES TO VARIOUS
GERMAN OFFICIALS, USAREUR AND EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES
BRIEFED FRG MINISTRY OF YOUTH, FAMILY AND HEALTH OFFI-
CIALS ON THE PROBLEM AND REQUESTED THEIR HELP IN TIGHTEN-
ING UP FRG CONTROLS OVER THE MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTION
OF MANDRAX, A PRESCRIPTION CONTROLLED ITEM. IN RESPONSE
THE FRG (A) WROTE TO THE FEDERAL ASSOCIATION OF PHARMA-
CISTS AND TO THE PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIA-
TION OUTLINING THE PROBLEM AND RECOMMENDING THAT EACH
ORGANIZATION TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE MANUFACTURING AND
DISTRIBUTION CONTROLS OVER MANDRAX, AND (B) INSTITUTED
A FEDERAL CRIMINAL OFFICE (BKA) INVESTIGATION OF THE
MANDRAX PROBLEM IN THE FRG. ON APRIL 23, 1975, THE
BKA REPORT ON MANDRAX WAS DISCUSSED AT AN FRG INTERMIN-
ISTERIAL DRUG CONTROL MEETING. THE REPORT SHOWED THAT,
WHILE NOT YET A PRESSING DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM AMONG THE
GERMAN POPULATION, MANDRAX DID HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR
DEVELOPING INTO SUCH A PROBLEM. MOST OF THE PERSONS
PRESENT AT THE MEETING AGREED THAT MANDRAX SHOULD BE CON-
SIDERED A DANGEROUS DRUG AND THE FMOYFH WAS REQUESTED TO
DRAFT A DIRECTIVE THAT WOULD PUT MANDRAX ON THE SAME
LEVEL WITH OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS SUCH AS THE BARBITU-

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3. DR. CHRISTIANA GAUDICH, THE FONOFF OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAFTING SUCH REGULATIONS, HAS EXPLAINED TO AN EMBOFF THAT DRAFTING AND GAINING APPROVAL FOR MANDRAX CONTROL LEGISLATION WILL BE A LONG, AND PERHAPS NOT SUCCESSFUL, PROCESS FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON: ANY SUCH LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED OF BY THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT. SUCH APPROVAL IS USUALLY GRANTED ONLY IF RECOMMENDED BY THE APPROPRIATE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

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FOLLOWING HEARINGS AT WHICH EXPERTS FROM THE MEDICAL, PHARMACEAUTICAL AND MANUFACTURING FIELDS WOULD BE HEARD.

THE WITNESSES WOULD PROBABLY SPEAK OUT AGAINST STRICTER REGULATIONS, SINCE THE NEW REGULATIONS WOULD LEVY MORE PAPER WORK ON DOCTORS, PHARMACISTS AND MANUFACTURERS, REQUIRE INCREASED SAFE-- KEEPING EQUIPMENT ON THE PART OF PHARMACISTS, AND LEAD TO REDUCED SALES FOR THE MANUFACTURERS. (THE NEW REGULATIONS WOULD HAVE TO APPLY NOT ONLY TO MANDRAX, BUT TO ALL DRUGS CONTAINING METHAQUALONE AS AN ACTIVE INGREDIENT. THE NUMBER OF SUCH PREPARATIONS AVAILABLE IN GERMANY RUN FROM 12 TO 40 DEPENDING ON THE DEFINITION OF 'ACTIVE INGREDIENTS.')

DR. GAUDICH SUGGESTS THAT THIS TIME CONSUMING LEGISLATIVE PROCESS COULD BE AVOIDED WERE METHAQUALONE-BASED DRUGS PLACED ON SCHEDULE II OF THE PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES CONVENTION (OR ANY EQUIVALENT INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL AGREEMENT) RATHER THAN ITS PRESENT LISTING UNDER SCHEDULE IV. SHOULD THIS BE DONE, THE FRG WOULD BE REQUIRED, OR STRONGLY OBLIGATED, TO AMEND ITS NATIONAL REGULATIONS IN A SIMILAR MANNER REGARDLESS OF ARGUMENTS TO THE CONTRARY BY DOCTORS, PHARMACISTS OR MANUFACTURERS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE USG COULD FACILITATE THE PASSAGE OF FRG LEGISLATION CONTROLLING MANDRAX BY APPROACHING THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS DRUGS AND URGING THAT METHAQUALONE-BASED DRUGS SUCH AS MANDRAX BE PLACED UNDER SCHEDULE II RATHER THAN SCHEDULE IV OF THE PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES CONVENTION. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USG ADVOCATING SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION BY THE UNCND.

HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, NARCOTICS, DRUG ABUSE, MANDRAX
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN07771
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750169-0594
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750551/aaaabtIm.tel
Line Count: 199
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS CONTROL ... MANDRAX ABUSE
TAGS: SNAR, GE, US, USAREUR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006